



THE COLONNADE

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WEEKEND WEATHER

| Fri. | Sat. | Sun. |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | |
| 55 33 20% | 59 34 10% | 59 41 10% |

Source: <http://weather.com>

NUMBER CRUNCH

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Average cost of raising a medium size dog to 11 years of age.

Source: www.gotfacts.com

Idol shoots for the stars



Senior Johan Cronvall sang his way to victory in the 2007 GCSU Idol with his rendition of "I'll Be" by Edwin McCain. He out-sang 10 other competitors and endured intense scrutiny from the three judges before the students voted him as their favorite in the competition.

BRITTANY THOMAS / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Please see the full story on Pg. 10

Global warming seminar heats up

BY S. ASHLEE MOONEYHAN
STAFF WRITER

Beach volleyball and a kiddie pool on the front lawn in January might seem out of the ordinary, but for the members of the Environmental Science Club, it makes perfect sense.

GCSU was one of over 400 campuses that participated in Global Warming Day, Tuesday Jan. 29

"We are trying to make (Global Warming) more visible," said Robin Barker, a junior environmental science major and the president of ESC.

The day's events are designed to promote policy change and pub-

lic awareness for the subject of climate change and coincides with National Week of Action sponsored by the Campus Climate Challenge.

Participants of the demonstration certainly caught the eyes of students, faculty and staff by sporting bathing suits and tank tops while music usually associated with summer and beach scenes filled the air. Signs reminding people in humorous ways about the affects of global warming dotted the scenery as well.

The festivities lasted from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., giving ESC members time to discuss issues



S. ASHLEE MOONEYHAN / STAFF WRITER

Willie Dodson played his mandolin to draw attention to the global warming awareness display on front campus.

WARMING Page 5

Students house illegal residents, cats and dogs

BY JENNY PICKETT
STAFF WRITER

Though Bobcat Village, like the residence halls, has a strict pet policy, the occasional rebel does try to get away with keeping illegal animals in the apartments.

When housing employees spot an illicit pet creeping in a window seal, "How much is that kitty in the window?" is not the first question that pops into their minds.

"They like to hang out in the window," said Jen Maraziti, manager of apartment living at Bobcat Village.

The rules are clear. The only pets allowed are

those living exclusively in water and that can be contained in less than a 10-gallon aquarium.

The department also makes use of inside sources to root out prohibited pets.

"Also, believe-it-or-not, we'll have roommates who'll come and let us know that one of their roommates has a cat in there, because maybe they don't like the smell of the cat, or if this person never changes the litter box," Maraziti said.

Freshman and Bobcat Village resident Jasmine Roberson has lived with

PETS Page 3

New director aims for more latinos to enroll

BY JAMIE FLEMING
SENIOR REPORTER

Javier Francisco was born and raised in Los Angeles. Not the glitzy, glamorous L.A., but the gritty, inner-city L.A. The son of first-generation Mexican immigrant parents who are working-class citizens, he is one of the few students who made it out and became successful. One of his goals is to create social change, and his background is part of the reason.

"Coming from a working-class family, I've always believed that somebody saved me, that somebody provided me with something different — another insight of what my life could be like in the

future," Francisco said. "So, I've always wanted to be a part of that and return the favor."

He is giving back now

as GCSU's associate director of enrollment management. Francisco

DIRECTOR Page 2



ANDREW BENESH / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER
Javier Francisco is the new Associate Director of Enrollment Management at GCSU.

Senate votes to change rules to walk

BY LEE SANDOW
SENIOR REPORTER

The University Senate tied in a vote during their monthly meeting on January 28 that would change the requirements to walk at commencement.

The bill, if approved, would require that all students have completed all of their degree requirements with the exception of one course, up to three hours in length, in order to walk.

"The final vote was 19 to 19," said Dr. Mike Gleason, chair of the Academic Governance Committee. "It was brought up right at the end of the meeting, when we got through with business. We voted to postpone discussion until the next senate meeting."

This current bill is the "amended-amended" version of the original idea, which was first proposed to the University Senate in November, Gleason said.

"It took the entire (November) meeting," Gleason said. "It's kind of controversial."

The current take of the bill requires students to have completed all but a single requirement for their major. They may take any class during that summer and still walk. Internships and capstone projects can also be done during this time instead of a class.

The original take on the bill stated that in order for a student to walk at commencement, the student must have completed everything required for their degree. The only

SENATE Page 2

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Details on page 13

Director

Continued from Page 1...

thinks it is important for people to understand the assortment of Hispanic and Latino culture.

“(One goal) is to change the image (of Hispanics and Latinos) and to help people understand that Latino culture is very diverse just, like any other culture. If we look at any other racial or ethnic group – African Americans, they live all over the country, all over the world- the African Diaspora,” Francisco said. “It’s the same thing with Latinos. The only thing we have in common is that we speak the same language, more or less...We have different foods, ways we deal

with our families and ways that we interact.”

Francisco’s position was created as a result of a \$700,000 endowment from the Goizueta Foundation. Roberto C. Goizueta was Cuban-American and was Chief Executive Officer of Coca-Cola from 1981 to his death in 1997.

“(The) objective is to provide money to help organizations to do specific educational things and services to the Latino and Hispanic communities, specifically in Georgia,” Francisco said.

Some programs that his office will bring to GCSU are the Goizueta Scholarship Fund and a mentorship program. As the office grows, they will offer more programs.

“The Goizueta

Scholarship Fund would basically be for any student of Hispanic heritage and it would be administered by the financial aid office. We are in the process of setting up the foundation,” Francisco said.

The mentor program will be similar to the Georgia Education Mentorship (GEM) Program.

“We want to find mentors who are working with the Hispanic community directly either in the non-profit sector or the educational sector, and provide a Georgia College student the opportunity to work with a person or mentor in that area,” Francisco said. “The goal is going to be partnering with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.”

Paul Grigsby, a junior

creative writing major, said Francisco’s presence signifies growth at GCSU.

“He’s ensuring that every ethnic group is at GCSU and ensuring that this is a diverse campus,” Grigsby said. “I think he’ll become a valued member of the staff (here).”

Audia Jones, a junior marketing major and president of Black Student Alliance, said she is excited that Francisco is here.

“I like Javier because he has a lot offer GCSU in regards to his life and where he’s from,” Jones said. “He can add a different flavor, and I look forward to all that will be accomplished through his vision.”

GCSUNADE.COM

Senate

Continued from Page 1...

exceptions to this rule would be for majors that have a required capstone project that would run into the summer.

If a student has not completed the requirements mandated by whichever of the two bills is passed, they will not be able to walk during the Spring commencement of that year. And student, wishing to walk would need to return during the ceremony the following Spring. There are currently no plans to reinstate Winter graduation.

The motion was tabled at the last meeting, and will be discussed again during the meeting on Feb. 26.

The rationale behind this change is to encourage students to graduate on time.

Also, the bill was proposed in order to help maintain the integrity of the commencement ceremony.

“It will also make the commencement ceremony more meaningful, knowing that all the students participating are indeed set to graduate,” the creators of the bill said in the proposal that was placed before the University Senate. “Over the years, despite the stated policy for participation in commencement, a significant number of students who walked in the Spring ceremonies did not complete their requirements in the subsequent summer term. Some students who participate in commencement fail to complete final requirements and thus remain on our books as students who have not graduated.”

The bill in November was strongly favored by the

members of the committee, with only two members voting against it.

Gleason was one of the two who voted against the motion.

“The committee felt strongly,” Gleason said. “My basic rationale is that graduation is a very special thing. They do all the physical and emotional work, getting to the point where they can graduate. (Walking is) emotionally tied, and the families are usually expecting them (to walk).”

Gleason believes students should be allowed to walk, since it is simply ceremonial, and doesn’t have any meaning unto itself.

“I understand (the other side’s) point of view,” Gleason said. “But this is a ceremony; it’s not an actual degree.”

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Pets

Continued from Page 1...

some of these illegal aliens. Two of her roommates have been caught keeping cats in the apartment.

In order to keep from being discovered, Roberson's roommates kept their cats in their room around the clock and kept the radio on to drown out the cats' meows

Roberson said she had previously talked to her roommates about the situation, expressing her disapproval.

"I don't think cats should be in an apartment, period," Roberson said.

Eventually, her roommates were caught with the cats, and faced the consequences.

Getting caught with an illegal pet results in a \$100 fine, which covers the cost of treating the guilty party's apartment for fleas. Also, the owner must remove the animal from the premises.

"Really, our apartments aren't conducive to animals," Maraziti said. "And that's the main reason — it's just not conducive. Raising a cat or dog is like

raising a child. There's a lot that goes along with it. There are a lot of consequences to having an animal, and we want the best living environment here. It may be fun and great to have cats and dogs, but the cons outweigh the pros if you look at the differences between the two."

Bobbie Thompson, president of the Animal Rescue Foundation, said that in the past, they have been asked to pick up animals abandoned by their owners, usually during the winter and summer breaks.

Thompson said that students sometimes acquire a pet before realizing that they do not have enough time or money to take proper care of the animal.

January and October are the months when most college students approach the shelter to try to adopt pets.

Thompson, knowing that pets are not allowed on campus, said she takes special care when placing their animals in homes.

Anyone potentially adopting an animal from ARF must be at least 21 years old — a standard policy at many humane societies, according to

Thompson. ARF also requires that the adopter be a permanent resident of Georgia. Those who work at the shelter are looking only for long-term homes for these animals.

"If we (let someone) adopt an animal knowing full well it is not allowed on the campus, we are doing a disservice to that animal," Thompson said.

ARF encourages those who want to interact with animals to instead volunteer at the shelter. Students can walk dogs and play with the cats.

"They can come in here seven days a week to get their pet fix," Thompson said.

Until recently, Maraziti has worked as complex director at Parkhurst Hall, which she said rarely had pet problems.

"We're not out to catch students by any means," Maraziti said. "Our goal is to make sure you're abiding by the rules. But if a cat's in a window we address it immediately."



RACHEL SLOAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Jessica Harrell, a junior mass communication major, sits on the front lawn with her dog Molly. Animals are allowed on the front lawn, but are prohibited in the residence halls and Bobcat Village.

GIVE Center prepares Relay for Life teams

BY JERRY CALBOS
STAFF WRITER

The GIVE Center hosted the Relay For Life Kickoff on Thursday, Jan. 31.

The kickoff was for students who were selected by their organization to be team captains, or others who wished to start their own Relay for Life team. There was confusion among students as to whether the event was the official date of Relay for Life. However, the official Relay for Life event will take place on April 13-14.

"The kickoff is mainly an event for someone who wants to be a team captain...kind of like a rally," said Kim Benfield-David, on-site activities coordinator.

Jan Nutt, recruitment chair, said the captains organize the team and keep them informed. They also recruit walkers, and, in general, organize everything about the event.

"Without the team captains, we wouldn't have relay for life," Nutt said.

All Greek organizations, the Mass Communication Department, International Club, residence halls, serv-

ice organization, professors and many others will help with Relay for Life.

Each team member is asked to do their part to raise money, while in return; they walk around a track (this year at Walter B. Williams Park).

"You're committing yourself to raise \$10 per person—\$100 per team," said Pat Sweatt, chair of registration, accounting and online development.

A team can certainly raise as much money as they wish beyond that, however there is no penalty for not raising money.

"The money goes to four things: cancer research, education, advocacy and education," Benfield-David said.

The money goes directly to the American Cancer Society office in Macon.

There are a number of group fundraisers a team may participate in, on a first-come, first-served basis. For example, there will a yard sale at the Milledgeville Mall on Feb. 10. There will be luminary sales as well. Anyone who purchases a luminary will have a survivor's name placed on it and will be

lighted during the Survivor's Walk.

Teams may also to purchase T-shirts and must be registered by March 6 in order to receive the correct size for their T-shirts. Teams can pay their registration fee online at the Baldwin County Web site, or offline if they do not have a credit card. MidSouth Credit Union will be handling all the funds for the Baldwin County Relay for Life

For those students who are unable to give an hour or two to walking sometime throughout the night, there will be a kiddie's corner, where students and members of the community could paint faces, play games and participate in other fun activities with children. There will also be lounge acts, which are needed, according to Benfield. These include potential jugglers and magicians.

Some teams will be selling food on the day of the event, while other teams might be selling small items. This year's theme is "Cruising."

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Students prone to wintertime sickness due to stress, habits

BY MEGHAN WIER
STAFF WRITER

Many college students are taken down by an illness during the winter months, but many times these illnesses can be prevented depending on how students maintain their health.

"It's really a lot of common sense things to stay healthy," said Alice Loper, the clinical director at the Student Health Clinic.

Most college students do not lead a very healthy life. They usually do not get enough sleep and are under a lot of pressure. Students also smoke, drink and sometimes eat one meal after another. All of these actions add up and can lead to illness.

"College students are at a higher risk for getting sick," Loper said. "When you're run down, you are more vulnerable to getting sick."

Even though college students are vulnerable, there are a few things they can do to prevent illness. The single best way in preventing the flu is to get a flu vaccination each year, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Loper said that the best thing for college students to do in order to stay healthy includes "a multi-vitamin a day, a balanced diet and good rest."

However, good rest and a balanced diet are two things that may be hard to find on a college campus, let alone in a college lifestyle.

Many students juggle both academic and social obligations, which can sometimes be stressful.



ANDREW BENESH / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER
Evan Boitet receives his flu vaccination from Kathy Frazier, RN. Students are at a high risk of becoming ill during the Winter.

Once a student gets sick, there is even more stress placed on them to not miss class, parties or other social activities. This stress can make an already sick student feel worse.

There are things students can do to do to feel better.

Students can go to the Student Health Clinic located on the main floor of Beeson Hall on Montgomery Street. The four nurse practitioners there see between 40 and 60 sick students a day during the winter months. They can test students for mono, the flu, and strep throat among other things.

"Colds and the flu are viruses and they are just going to run their course once they get in your body," Loper said.

This means there is nothing that can be prescribed for a student to treat viruses that cause illnesses.

There are some things students can do to relieve their symptoms though, while the virus is going on.

Katherine Anthony, a freshman chemistry major, had mono at the beginning of this semester and says she drank orange juice and took vitamin C pills daily

to help with her symptoms. This did not make her mono go away faster, it did however, simply lessen the effects of the virus.

Likewise, Loper suggests taking a decongestant when students have a cold or the flu to help with their symptoms.

Students already infected with a virus can help their schoolmates by keeping their illnesses to themselves. Mono is transferred through saliva, mucus, and sometimes tears according to WebMD, an accredited health website. So students should keep their drinks and cigarettes to themselves. Colds and the flu can be transferred like mono or by an infected person's cough or sneeze.

"A sneeze can travel 100 feet or more," Loper said. "So to contain that, it is best to sneeze into your elbow."

Students should avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth when around an infected person since many germs enter their body through these areas. Washing your hands is also a very important part of staying healthy, according to Loper.

Milledgeville street names stump clueless residents

BY LEE SANDOW
SENIOR REPORTER

The names of Jefferson, Clarke, Washington and other famous revolutionaries are spoken in Milledgeville every day, despite the fact that many of them never met face to face, and fewer ever visited.

These men are pertinent in Milledgeville today because they are the basis for the road names in the town. According to the visitor's center, the roads all have a common theme to their naming.

Many members of the community are not aware of the correlation. Spencer Pucci, a Milledgeville resident for 16 months, did not know who Clarke Street was named for.

"I don't know, but I remember seeing it once," Pucci said with a laugh.

Likewise, many residents did not know of the overall theme either, though many had guesses.

"I guess political history," Pucci said. "I only say that because of Washington Street and Jefferson Street."

Darryl Robertson, who has lived in Milledgeville for nine years, had another theory.

"Probably some Confederate Generals or Confederate troops," Robertson said.

Brent Ray, who moved to Milledgeville a year ago, found an interesting correlation while referring to Wilkinson Street.

"Is it based on Wilkinson County?" he had asked himself hypothetically.

Ray was correct. With the exception of Liberty Street and Columbia Street, all the roads in downtown Milledgeville are named for counties. These counties were in turn named after famous revolutionary figures, both on and off the battlefields.

Franklin Street was named for Benjamin Franklin, a noted inventor commonly known for his experiment with a kite in a thunderstorm. Franklin also worked closely with the Declaration of Independence.

Wilkinson Street was named for James Wilkinson, who served on the council of war after the end of the Revolution. He fought as a soldier during the war.

Wayne Street was named for General "Mad" Anthony Wayne, who helped to corner the British forces and end the Revolution.

Elijah Clarke was an explorer who traveled throughout Georgia, and also fought in the southern theatre of war during the Revolution.

Greene Street is named for Nathanael Greene, a general who forced the occupying British forces out of South Carolina.

Washington and Jefferson streets are named after former presidents George Washington and Thomas Jefferson.

Columbia Street and

Liberty Street are not named after counties, but also share revolutionary roots.

Though it is jested by many as being named for its drug traffic, Columbia Street is actually named after the nation's first national anthem, "Hail Columbia." This anthem was written by Joseph Hopkinson in 1798, and was sung at the inauguration of George Washington.

Liberty Street is named for the ideal of the revolution, where the 13 colonies rebelled against Great Britain for their personal liberty. Liberty Street also has a second, darker meaning behind it, according to some Milledgeville residents.

Michael Clay, a patrolman for the Milledgeville Police Department, said the name of the street was based on prison and death.

"There's a cemetery at the end of the road," Clay explained. "When a prisoner died, the pallbearers would walk the coffin down the street to the cemetery. It was the prisoner's last bit of liberty before they were buried."

Memorial Hill cemetery does lie at the end of Liberty Street, and the current location of GCSU had once been called Penitentiary Square.

Information about many of these famous revolutionaries, and about Milledgeville itself, can be found at www.ushistory.org.

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Students cope while family, friends serve duty overseas

BY DEVIN VERNICK
SENIOR REPORTER

She embraces her older brother tightly. Between sobs, she whispers, “I love you; I am praying for you.” “I love you too,” he replies.

Carolyn Forester watches him turn and begin walking off. She, her two other brothers and her parents finish their goodbyes, and they too turn to leave. Her older brother, Brian Forester is headed back to Fort Bragg, N.C. Several days later, he will be in Afghanistan.

Today, a picture of him dressed in desert fatigues rests atop a mantle in her bedroom. As she leaves for class every morning, her eyes gaze upon that frame. Her loving brother, now in a land far, far away, looks back at her.

Carolyn, a sophomore at GCSU, has joined the ranks of many who have endured saying goodbye to a loved one headed to a combat zone. First Lieutenant Forester is serving his second tour in Afghanistan, so this was not the first time his sister has struggled to say goodbye.

“When I watch the news, my heart breaks when they show the number of soldiers that died that day,” Carolyn said. “I realize that my brother is over there and he could be one of those numbers.”

There are few other GCSU students who can relate to this anxiety. Carolyn wants to live everyday in a place of peace and hope, despite the emotional toll this must take. She has learned what it means to soldier on.

“We [her family] cope through prayer and trusting in God,” Carolyn said.

GCSU sophomores Amy and Jenifer Lowe can relate. The twin sisters, born 12 minutes apart, have

a close bond. That is comforting to have when your older brother could be re-deployed to Iraq any day now.

Specialist Lowe was able to spend the holidays with his sisters upon returning from several months of service in Iraq. He treated his sisters like princesses, taking them out to dinner, shopping and doing anything else to make the most of every minute he had. He is their caring brother, and as an American soldier, a daily concern.

“This is a stressful time,” Amy said. “We don’t know if Christmas was the last time we’re going to see him for a year and a half.”

“We’re scared; you don’t know what’s going to happen when he goes,” Jenifer said.

At times, the Lowe sisters have been frustrated by some of their peer’s attitudes toward the Middle East conflict. Their peers are quick to point out the faults of President Bush’s decision to send Americans to such a volatile land, and slow to realize that in the midst of all the chaos, Specialist Lowe, and many others, try to do the right thing in a world gone wrong.

“They’re building schools over there,” Amy said. “Don’t talk about it [Iraq] if you don’t know what’s going on.”

Like Forester, watching the evening news is a recurring agony for the Lowe sisters. When the broadcast shifts to the war, their stomachs turn when American casualties are mentioned. It is a fear that will not end until their brothers return safely home.

A GCSU junior, Brent Adams has heard a lot about what American soldiers and Marines have experienced in the Middle East. Besides being a his-

tory major, Adams is also a United States Marine. Adams is not on active duty, which allows him to continue the college education he needs to one day serve as an officer in the Marine Corps.

Adams is quick to point out that Americans serving in military do not feel like victims of their circumstances. They volunteered to put their lives on the line. His understanding of war comes directly from the Marines with whom he has spoken upon their return from service in Iraq or Afghanistan.

“Our military personnel are trained to handle the job...but there’s a difficult level of emotional response to what they see,” Adams said. “There’s a level of fear, knowing that someone whom you are friends with is leaving [to a combat zone].”

Stories returning Marines have told him of befriending and looking after Iraqi families, clearing out potentially booby-trapped buildings, and other acts of bravery further inspire Adams to one day be serving in Iraq himself.

“It’s [deploying to Iraq] a very sobering thought, but it’s exciting,” Adams said.

Many other service personnel also serve willingly. “My brother wants to go back; it’s hard for us, but he is excited,” Jenifer said.

Despite the difficulty for family, the men and women of the military serve when their time comes. Carolyn’s brother didn’t resist when his turn came.

“He was ready to go,” Carolyn said.

The men and women serving overseas are soldiers eager to do their duty, but more importantly, they are family and friends.



Will Godfrey / Senior Photographer
(L-R) Kelly Nicholson and Emily Marr, both outdoor education majors, roll around a giant inflatable Earth at the global warming awareness rally.

Warming

Continued from Page 1...

and explain details with curious lookers-on. They provided a vast array of information in the form of pamphlets and displays, and encouraged attendance at a series of teach-ins to educate on details of global warming.

The series of teach-ins is hosted by Coverdell Institute, and started the same night in Arts & Sciences Auditorium at 7 p.m. The first session featured professors Doug Oetter and Melanie DeVore, who spoke on the subject of global warming, specifically current trends in climate change and methods for exploring trends of the past.

“The giant inflatable earth got my attention, so I had to go find out what they were saying about global warming issues,” said Rebecca Croft, a sophomore nursing major.

Barker held a sign that claimed without greenhouse gases, the temperature outside would be 35 degrees colder. He encouraged people to be mindful that while greenhouse gases exist naturally and are necessary, they pose a major threat when they exist in excess, which they currently do.

ESC not only brought the causes of severe climate change to attention, but they also highlighted many ways that people can make a difference and can positively affect the suppression of such changes in global climate. One such suggestion is to work on leaving a lighter

footprint on the earth, or simply worded, living less wastefully. Students can calculate their impact on the earth by visiting www.FightGlobalWarming.com, and clicking on “Calculate Your Impact.”

“It is important for members of the Georgia College community to realize how our daily choices might affect global climate,” said Dr. Jennifer Rhode, professor of environmental science.

According to Environmental Defense, the United States is currently ranked number one as a global warming polluter compared to other large nations, and the average American is said to produce 8.4 tons of carbon dioxide a year.

“The Environmental Science Club is working hard to help each of us understand climate change and make environmentally-conscious lifestyle choices,” said Rhode.

The ESC, through the presentation of facts and messages, hope to make people around campus more aware of the prominence of the issue. It is for this reason the club is making efforts to bring awareness to the campus, no matter how unconventional the efforts may seem.

Got something to say about global warming? Tell us what you think on our message board at gcsunade.com.

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fightglobalwarming.com
- What Can a College Student Do?**
1. Buy organic foods as much as possible
 2. Plant a tree
 3. Buy locally grown and produced foods
 4. Buy recycled paper products
 5. Unplug electronics from the wall when you’re not using them
 6. Turn off electronic devices you’re not using
 7. Replace a regular incandescent light bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb (cfl)
 8. Reduce the number of miles you drive by walking, biking, carpooling or taking mass transit wherever possible
- Information courtesy of www.climatecrisis.com*



Devin Vernick / Senior Reporter
Junior Carolyn Forester keeps a picture of her brother Brian, who is currently in Afghanistan, on a mantle in her bedroom.

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10% off total purchase

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PHOTO: WILL GODFREY / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

DOMINY'S DOODLES

BY KYLE DOMINY

BCC - Baldwin County Choppers



Nader's ideas could play important role



BY WILL THOMPSON
COLUMNIST

As of late, it would seem that the only issues coming forth in the news involve the new and improved Democratic Party. Their take-over of Congress has filled our airwaves for the last few months, as well as their many different candidates entering the race for the Presidency in 2008.

Republicans have seen only a bit of light in the media recently, and, for the most part, it tends to be negative and involve troop surges and negative reviews on the "War on Terror". The new entrance

of Rudolph "Rudy" Giuliani III has made a little bit of a positive stir for the republicans, but not enough to cause a wave of interest except on the Fox Network.

Yet, it would seem to me that something is missing as we begin to get closer and closer to another 21st century presidential election...

Ahhh yes! The Green Party! We have yet to see the loudest minority come forth and present America with their time honored candidate, Ralph Nader. Nader, one of the loudest percussion drums for the environmental Green Party has yet to make his public announcement that he plans to run for the 2008 Presidency. Some have taken this as a sign that Nader has seen the light of his inappropriate actions after the 2000 run on the presidency. (For those whom do not remember, Nader took a whopping 2.74 percent of the popular vote, which many in

America believe would have gone to Al Gore had Nader backed out).

But, earlier this week, when Nader was asked if he was going to stay out of this election, he politely smiled and answered that he did not want to comment.

Did not want to comment?

Last time the American people heard those words were a month ago before the figurative Presidential candidate storm hit the airwaves of America. Now, we not only have an over abundance of so-so candidates, but we also have such a diverse candidate base that it actually resembles what America is composed of: individuals.

So, do I support Nader if he wants to jump into the presidential pool? You bet. Do I think he will win? Not even if he gave away free baby Koala bears and kittens to his supporters. But with the entrance of Nader, one has to understand what he

does, and what his intentions are. Nader brings forth a host of issues to the race that for too long have been overlooked. Just now, the American people are discussing environmental issues such as alternative fuel and global warming. Why? Because individuals like Al Gore have recognized their importance to the people. Don't you find it odd that Al Gore made "An Inconvenient Truth" after the 2000 debacle? I Don't.

No, Nader has as much chance of winning the Presidency as I do. But, he does have the chance to showcase his views on environmental issues, and even more important, his possible solutions to them. And, if the American people are lucky and cheer for him loud enough, the next republican or democratic president might just adopt them.

Send responses to
colonnadeletters@gcsu.edu

Georgia will say no to a second dose of Clinton

BY STEPHEN TURNER
COLUMNIST

Senator Hillary Clinton has now officially thrown her name into the pot of democratic hopefuls for the 2008 Presidential election. The question is, does she stand a chance? My answer to that would be no, at least not this early on. It does not seem that she has enough support at this time from the key caucus states such as Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina. Nor do I, in my wildest dreams, believe that she could pull off Super Tuesday with a victory.

Let us suppose for a moment that she does make it to Super Tuesday,

the primary in which Georgia votes. Will she gain the favor of Democrats and the ever-swaying moderates in Georgia? Not likely. The Georgia electorate has shown us time and time again in recent years that this is a solid red state. The moderates are more conservative than in other parts of the country, and many of the Democrats are of the old school, which means that they too are considered conservative by the rest of the country.

What if she does win the Democratic Nomination? Georgia will become even more of a Red state. She will do what her husband did several years ago. President Bill Clinton ran

his campaign as if he were a moderate Democrat, thus shifting those moderate swing voters farther to the right. I do not want this country to go any more right, because right is wrong. What Senator Clinton needs to do is not pretend to be a moderate, but to come out swinging as a full blown liberal. Maybe then we can balance out the scales of American Party alignment.

If she is to stay on her current path, Senator Clinton will appeal to only a few liberal voters in this state, unless the republicans decide to nominate Trent Lott or David Duke, then its a toss-up. Not that it matters though. The majority of Georgia voters

are more likely to write in a vote for a can of potted meat for president than they would for Hillary. What does she have to offer to a Georgia voter, her ever-changing stance on Bush's war in Iraq, her experience as a Senator of New York State, or those stunning pant suits? The answer, none of the above.

While I do agree with Senator Clinton on many of her stances, I do not believe that the state of Georgia will ever elect her for President. That is why I am supporting the Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) Campaign.

Send responses to
colonnadeletters@gcsu.edu

Our Voice

Homecoming meaningless unless properly promoted

The Colonnade polled 10 random students on Front Campus last Wednesday on the awareness of GCSU Homecoming. Each student participating in the poll was asked two questions: Did the student know that this weekend was homecoming weekend? Would they participate in the homecoming?

The results were stunning.

Three out of the 10 students were aware that this weekend was homecoming weekend and two out the ten students said they were planning on taking part in the festivities.

This is a big gap in our university's unity.

Homecoming is an annual tradition in the United States. People, towns, high schools and colleges come together to welcome back alumni. It is built around a central event, such as a banquet or a sports game. The nation's first homecoming was in 1911 at the University of Missouri in Columbia and was held by the NCAA.

It is a time of unity for celebrating at schools, often consisting of a sports game played on the school's campus. Activities for students and alumni, a parade featuring the school's marching band, and the coronation of a homecoming queen (and at many schools, a homecoming king) are also usually held.

This made The Colonnade wonder why is homecoming a low priority at GCSU? Do the students not care or is it the school's fault?

We believe the school does not market GCSU homecoming sufficiently. If less than 30 percent of the students in our poll did not realize it was homecoming this weekend then the school is not making a good enough effort advertising. Moreover, only 20 percent said they would participate.

We looked over the agenda for homecoming weekend and it is centered on the alumni. The events featured on Saturday include a campus open house at 9 a.m., a homecoming parade at 2 p.m., an alumni tailgate at 2 p.m., the men's and women's basketball game against Clayton State from 2-6 p.m., and an alumni barbeque at 6 p.m.

It is a given that the weekend is designed to get the alumni to come back, but the students spend every day here for four years or even more. We need to be involved. Most of the events are promotional events for the school and not about building school spirit. The school needs to spend less time worrying about our image and more time building school unity.

A few suggestions to boost involvement is to create a GCSU day, where students can wear clothing with the school's name or school's colors or have a pep rally before the homecoming basketball game.

Send responses to
colonnadeletters@gcsu.edu

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CORRECTIONS

The Colonnade wants to correct mistakes appearing in the newspaper. If you believe we have made a mistake, please call us at (478) 445-4511 or (478) 445-2559 or e-mail us at colonnade@gcsu.edu

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

Have you got something to say? Then this is the space for you. Nowhere else on campus will you, a student, have the opportunity to reach almost 3,000 people every week.

Let us know what is on your mind. Parking a pain? Let us hear about it. Did we get something wrong? We will never know unless you bring it up.

Remember, your voice is the most powerful tool you have.

- The Colonnade

THE COLONNADE POLICY: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Colonnade encourages readers to express their views and opinions by sending letters to the editor at: CBX 2442; Milledgeville, Ga. 31061 or by e-mail at colonnadeletters@gcsu.edu

All letters must be typed and include:

- names
- address/ Email address
- telephone number
- year of study
- major
- Only your name, year of study and major will be listed.
- Unsigned letters will not be printed. Names will be withheld only under very unusual circumstances.
- Letters longer than 300 words may be condensed.
- All letters will be edited for grammar, spelling and punctuation errors.
- All letters become the property of The Colonnade and cannot be returned.
- We are not able to acknowledge their receipt or disposition. Letters will be printed at the discretion of the Editor in Chief.

POLL OF THE WEEK

GRAPHIC BY KYLE DOMINY

What song will you play for your sweetheart this Valentine’s Day?



a) Crush - Dave Matthews Band

b) Closer - Nine Inch Nails

c) Check Yes or No - George Strait

d) Amazed - Lonestar

e) HWC - Liz Phair

f) I Believe in a Thing Called Love - The Darkness



vote @ gcsunade.com







Results from last week’s poll:
Why do you watch the Super Bowl

Football . . . it’s great - 46%

For the commercials - 33%

I don’t watch it - 17%

My boyfriend/girlfriend makes me watch - 4%





“What is your most memorable Valentine’s Day and if you don’t have one, what are you doing this year?”



“My husband and I are going to be at home cooking steaks!”

Allison Welch, Sophomore, Pre-Nursing



“I want to send my mother and father some flowers.”

Michael Hague, Junior, Environmental Science



“My boyfriend sent me on a scavenger hunt a few years ago. I went around town and got flowers, jewelry and dinner from him”

Allison Stevens, Junior, Mass Communication



“Letting Lynn, my girlfriend, take me out to dinner if she is lucky.”

Cliff Turner, Junior, Political Science



“I have a paper due on Valentine’s Day this year, so that will be my plans unfortunately.”

John Andrejewski, Sophomore, English

Beat Reported by Kate McWilliams

The Litter Box

Instant Message with "ColonnadeVent"



ColonnadeVent
Last message received at: 6:33:10 PM

Mr. Boston is the alcoholic equivalent Sam’s Choice.

My friend's landlord deflated 3 of my tires for parking on his property with the resident’s permission. Anyone else think this guy is a psycho?

It's bitter sweet when you realize when you are 22 and you are more mature than someone twice your age.

If you goal was to intimidate me....mission failed, buddy.

“Maui Fever” is the worst show ever. Shame on you, MTV!

Jack Bauer....enough said.

Anybody else think that the this year’s Super Bowl featured two of the ugliest quarterbacks to ever take the field?

Lynyrd Skynyrd is the most overrated band ever!

What happened to Nick Cage? How did he ever go from the bada** in Face/Off to a guy who’s head explodes into fire? Lame.

Excuses never explain - Explanations never excuse.

Who cleans this litter box out? Can I have that job?

Deanie Rae is the cutsey-wootsiest, itty-bitty, teeny-tiny pupperkins I eeevvvverrrrr saw! But, she’s not photogenic yet :(

I’m a Harlem Globetrotter and I didn’t even know it!

I am so tired of that astronaut woman! She is everywhere. I turn on CNN, she’s there. I turn on Fox News, she’s there. So I finally turned to the last man haven, ESPN...she was there, too!!

I read that Jean-Claude Van Damme, Dolph Lundgren and Chuck Norris may all star in a movie together. (Insert punch line here.)

The peanut in neither a pea, nor a nut. Discuss amongst yourselves.

Congratulations Tifanie! Georgia College will miss you.

Lucida G... 12 B I U A A Link ☺ ☹

Want to vent about something? Send us a message about what’s bothering you to screen name **ColonnadeVent**. Comments can be sent anytime, any day of the week.



Send

Colonnade wins big at GCPA

SPECIAL TO
THE COLONNADE

The Colonnade, the official student newspaper of Georgia College & State University, won 12 awards at a statewide conference Feb. 3.

The Georgia College Press Association held The Better Newspaper Contest in Macon. GCPA is an organization designed to promote and maintain high standards of excellence within the collegiate journalism community.

Jennifer Farmer, GCPA coordinator, planned the conference, which included informative workshops along with the awards.

"This is a great time for students to not only expand on their own position at the paper but to learn something new," Farmer said.

The Colonnade won first place in the most honored General Excellence category for the second consecutive year. The newspaper also received first in General Advertising Excellence, Layout and Design

Excellence, Improvement and Campus Community Service Editorial Excellence.

Brian Shreve, Tyler Smith and Will Godfrey took home individual awards. Shreve placed first for Best Feature Story. Smith also placed in the Best Feature Story category, taking third. Godfrey earned third for Best News Photograph.

"The awards are to honor the hard work and dedication of some of Georgia's brightest journalism students," Farmer explained.

The GCPA has 27 other participating colleges in Georgia. Berry, Emory, Georgia Southern and Georgia State are a few of the competing schools.

Tyler Smith, editor in chief, is pleased with the outcome of the weekend's events.

"We were very happy about all the awards. Last year we won about the same amount, and I think that consistency shows how good of a staff we have," Smith said.

Smith also noted the reason behind The

Colonnade's success.

"We have an extremely hard working staff who put in more work than most people realize. Because of their dedication, we are able to put out a great paper every week, semester after semester," Smith said.

The Colonnade was first established in 1924. The paper's primary mission is to cover events and issues of importance to the campus community and to provide a forum for public debate and discussion. Working on the newspaper gives students an opportunity for hands-on experience in a variety of areas such as management, writing, advertising, editing, photography, design and publishing. The editors have the authority to make content decisions without censorship or advance approval. A faculty advisor is assigned to the newspaper.

For additional information about The Colonnade or the conference, contact Editor in Chief Tyler Smith at (478) 445-4511 or via e-mail at colonnade@gcsu.edu.



THE COLONNADE

Public Safety Report



The party that would not end

On Jan. 30, at approximately 1:28 a.m., Sgt. Williams's responded to a loud noise complaint at a residence on Montgomery St. Sgt. Williams made contact with two individuals, who stated that they would shut down the party. At 2:06 a.m., Sgt. Williams was dispatched back to that location in reference to a noise complaint again. Sgt. Williams ordered the two individuals to shut down the party immediately. Both individuals were very intoxicated and stated that most of the people at the party were spending the night. They were not diligent in making anyone leave the location. Sgt. Williams issued a citation to the individuals for the local noise ordinance.

The trouble with tags

On Feb. 1, at approximately 2:12 p.m., Officer Gaines observed a vehicle on Greene St. that had a drive-out tag without a date on it. A traffic stop was initiated and contact was made with the driver. A check through GCIC determined that the vehicle did not have a valid registration or any insurance. GCIS also showed that the driver had active warrants through Milledgeville P.D. The warrants were verified and the driver was arrested and transported to Milledgeville P.D. and issued citations for no insurance and no registration. Old Capitol Wrecker Service towed the vehicle.

Officers join with Milledgeville P.D. to bring driver down

On Feb. 3, at approximately 12:03 a.m.,

Officer Pissott responded to a call for assistance by Milledgeville P.D. in reference to a possible drunk driver. Officer Pissott observed the described vehicle run a stop sign and fail to maintain lane near the Piggly Wiggly on Wayne Street. A traffic stop was initiated and contact was made with the driver and the passenger. When tested on the Intoxilyzer 5000, the driver registered a .148. A search of the vehicle found a red cup containing alcohol, which the driver admitted to being theirs. The driver was arrested and transported to Milledgeville PD and charged with DUI, failure to stop and the driver was also written a warning for failure to maintain lane. The passenger was brought to Milledgeville .PD. to wait for the driver to be released from jail and to sign the citation for open container. While in the lobby, the passenger became irate and began using profanities. The passenger was arrested and taken back to the detention area. Old Capitol Wrecker towed the vehicle.

Wallet woes

On Feb. 4, at approximately 2:36 p.m., a student reported that she had lost her wallet at the Centennial Center on Feb. 3 during the basketball game. A search of the Centennial Center did not find the wallet.

Caught in the trash

On Feb. 4, at approximately 5 p.m., Officer English was dispatched to Foundation Hall in reference to a male digging in the trashcans. Contact was made with an individual, who had been trespassing from all GCSU property a year and a half ago. The individual was arrested and transported to Baldwin County Sheriff's Officer and was charged with criminal trespass.

Information compiled
by Jessica Murphy

Please go online to
gcsunade.com to download the
extended Public Safety Report podcast.

gcsunade.com
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gcsunade.com

The Colonnade wins best in state!



Congratulations to all The Colonnade staff!

First Place: General Excellence

Best Campus Community Service - Editorial Excellence
Improvement Award

Best Feature Story - Brian Shreve recognized for "Hanging by a thread" from April 4, 2006
Layout and Design Excellence
General Advertising Excellence

Second Place: Best Campus Community Service - News

Best Campus Community Service - Sports
General Photography Excellence
Best Newspaper Website

Third Place: Best News Photography - Will Godfrey

Best Feature Story - Tyler Smith recognized for "The Ghost of Sanford," from October 20, 2006

WHAT'S HAPPENING

February 9 - February 15

Friday, February 9

Alumni Homecoming Weekend 2007

8 p.m. Battle of Bands, Magnolia Ballroom

Saturday, February 10

2 p.m. Lady Bobcats Basketball vs. Clayton State, The Centennial Center

4 p.m. Bobcats Basketball vs. Clayton State, Centennial Center

7:30 p.m. Valentine's Day Rendezvous, First Methodist Church

Sunday, February 11

12 p.m. Women's Tennis vs. UNC-Pembroke, Centennial Center

3 p.m. Lecture Series at Andalusia- Murali Thirumal, Dining Room, Main House at Andalusia

12 p.m. Women's Tennis vs. Clark Atlanta, Centennial Center

Monday, February 12

9 a.m.- 8 p.m. Locks of Love, MSU Lounge

7 - 8 p.m. AIDS Week- "Battle of the Sexes Game" by Rachel Sullivan, A&S Auditorium

7:30 p.m. Faculty Recital, "Mozart in Venna," Greg PePETone, Piano, Max Noah Recital Hall

Tuesday, February 13

4:30 p.m. Volunteer Meeting, 143 Maxwell Student Union

7 - 8:30 p.m. Global Warming Teach-In: Climate Change Effects on Nature's Ecosystems, University Banquet Room

7:30 p.m. Fiction Reading with Stephen Graham Jones, A&S Auditorium

7 p.m. Campus Catholics Holy Grounds, Dogwood A, SAC

8 p.m. BSU Synergy, Magnolia Ballroom, SAC

Wednesday, February 14

Noon - 1 p.m. Fulton County Human Services Department H.I.R.E. Learning Program, University Banquet Room - A

12:30 p.m. AIDS Week - "Girls Just Wanna Be Safe," Rachel Sullivan, Women's Resource Center

1 p.m. Lady Bobcats Softball vs. #15 Columbus State, Peeler Athletic Complex (West Campus)

3:30 - 5 p.m. AIDS Week - "HIV/AIDS in India" by Dr. Sunita Manian, A&S Auditorium

4 p.m. Environmental Ethics with Dr. Doug Oetter, 250 Herty Hall

5 p.m. SIFE Meeting, 109 Atkinson Hall

5:30 p.m. Lady Bobcats Basketball vs. Armstrong Atlantic State, Centennial Center

6 p.m. A.N.GE.L.S Meeting, GIVE Center

6 - 8 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday- Internships, 232 Lanier Hall

7 p.m. Ethnic Notions: The Portrayal of Blacks in Film, Maxwell Student Union

7:30 p.m. Bobcats Basketball vs. Armstrong Atlantic State, Centennial Center

8 p.m. Wesley House, Magnolia Ballroom

8:30 p.m. International Club Coffee Night, Kilpatrick Atrium

Thursday, February 15

5:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Connecting Learning with Action: A Service Learning Summit, A&S Auditorium

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. AIDS Week - Red Ribbon Commitment Day, Front Campus

2:30 p.m. Men's Tennis vs. #10 Lander, Centennial Center

2:30 p.m. Women's Tennis vs. #10 Lander, Centennial Center

7 p.m. AIDS Week - "AIDS Awareness Workshop and Performance" by AAC (Art as an Agent for Change) A&S Auditorium

Please send calendar submissions to colonnadenews@gcsu.edu

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FREE pizza at the meeting!

Questions? Comments? Email us at Colonnadeads@gcsu.edu

www.gcsunade.com

Say Cheese!

The Colonnade is looking for new photographers

Come get real experience in photojournalism

The Colonnade meets every Monday at 5:15 p.m. MSU 128 (under Sodexho)

oh yeah, we always have

FREE PIZZA!

NOW HEAR THIS

It's Black History Month!

Do you know why February is **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**? "Black History Month" and the study of black history is greatly owed to Harvard Scholar Dr. Carter D. Woodson who first launched "Negro History Week" in 1926. Woodson chose February because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly impacted the Black experience in the United States, Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.

The Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity recognizes the contributions of African Americans and encourages you to develop a better understanding of diversity.

Visit us at www.gcsu.edu/equity or in MSU 131.

Free two-session Final Cut workshop

A workshop will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 12 and Feb. 26 in the Library Instructional Technology Center.

This workshop will be instructed by one of our talented graduates, Zach Cowan, who is returning just for these special sections. He has sent the message below:

I am looking forward to our learning experience. I will cover some of the basics of video editing with Final Cut Pro, as well as some of the tools you can use before and after to make an effective project.

For our class coming up on the 12th I am asking that you come to class with some materials: a video clip of some kind. It can be any genre or format. It can be your own or a clip you like. The purpose of this clip is to share it with the group and discuss some of the edited features that make the clip cool. This way we will be able to cite familiar examples throughout the rest of the class and there will be examples that everyone knows.

During the period between classes I am asking that each of you take a camera and shoot material for a small project. When we return on the 26th we will cover the remainder of skills you need to complete the project.

If you have any questions ahead of time, please feel free to contact me via email.

Zach zachcowan@gmail.com

GCSU Idol SET LIST

Idol brings down the house

BY KYLE DOMINY
SENIOR REPORTER
AND
BY JESSICA MURPHY
SENIOR REPORTER

Can you imagine parading around in front of a raging crowd singing your heart out? What about being ridiculed and critiqued by judges? Could you handle the pressure? Last Friday 10 talented students did, and did well, at the third annual GCSU Idol Competition.

"It was a rush," said Kika Caparisos, one of the 10 competitors, about performing in front of the large crowd. "It was great to see my mom, brother and all of my friends out there."

The Magnolia Ballroom was packed to the helm as friends and

family came out to support their loved ones. People were warned not to leave their seats before the show started by the Idol staff, because someone wanting to come in would quickly fill any empty seat.

The three judges were Jennifer Flory, assistant professor of music, Phillip Joiner, from Z.97, and Fish Scales, one of the founding members of Nappy Roots. Scales was the Paula Abdul of the group, praising every act. Flory, who is a trained conductor, offered the singers more valuable comments. Joiner, however, was the

Simon and harshly criticized every performer.

Ruel Lee, who lead the competition, was the first to feel Joiners wrath.

"I think that Phillip should never be able to do this anymore because he made it too personal on everybody," Lee said. "He didn't even talk about some peoples songs and he told me I looked like I was from a dumpster."

Others were not as offended as Lee.

"I've known (Phillip Joiner) for way too long and I don't take anything he says seriously any-

more," said Laura Dees, a returning contestant of GCSU Idol.

Idol judge Fish Scales, who is also a GCSU alum, was excited about the opportunity to help with GCSU Idol.

"It feels good to be invited to stuff like this (idol)," Scales said. "It shows that people value my presence. I love it."

The judge's comments and critiques didn't seem to damper the spirits of most idol participants.

"It was awesome. It was real encouraging to see so many people out there screaming and yelling," said Kristina Higgins, who was chosen as judge's favorite. "It felt really special to be out there on stage."

While contestants prepared themselves inside for the big night, crowds of people stood outside for hours, waiting to be admitted.

"I waited about an hour and a half in line outside," said Molly Tuohy, a junior special education major. "Waiting outside for that long was definitely worth the wait, everyone did an amazing job."

Before the winner was announced, 2006 GCSU Idol winner Nadirah Ross performed.

"It was weird actually not competing this year, but I am so proud of all the contestants. To me, they are my babies and I'm the mom cheering them on," Ross said. "I couldn't be happier with how things turned out this year."

After the anticipation built up, the 2007 GCSU Idol winner was announced. Idol contestant Johan Cronvall, who sang Edwin McCain's "I'll Be", was named GCSU Idol for 2007. He also received a \$1,000 gift card to Best Buy.

"I was just up here to have fun. My friends told me I should be a part of (Idol), and they were all very supportive," Cronvall said. "It feels great. I want to thank everyone who voted for me. I didn't think I was going to win."

1. RUEL LEE- "THE HEART OF THE MATTER" - INDIA ARIE

2. KRISTINA HIGGINS- "INDEPENDENCE DAY" - MARTINA MCBRIDE

3. KIKA CAPARISOS- "BREATHLESS" - THE CORRS

4. BRITTANY LEWIS- "NOBODY"- DEBORAH COX

5. JESSICA SCOTT- "ON MY OWN"- LES MISERABLES

INTERMISSION- PATRICK SIMON

6. MARC OSBORN- "GET HERE"- OLETA ADAMS

7. LAURA DEES- "WITH A BROKEN WING"- MARTINA MCBRIDE

8. JUANISHA HANSFORD- "HERO"- MARIAH CAREY

9. JOHAN CRONVALL- "I'LL BE"- EDWIN MCCAIN

10. KARLA WHITE- "MERCY SAID NO"- CECE WINANS

CLOSING SONG: "AINT NO MOUNTAIN HIGH ENOUGH"- MICHAEL McDONALD

Tell us your favorite performer by leaving a comment on www.gcsunade.com



ALL PHOTOS BY BRITTANY THOMAS / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

GRAPHIC BY WILL GODFREY AND BRITTANY THOMAS



Judge Joiner

Phillip Joiner, host of Milledgeville Z.97's "The Almost Famous Show" was considered the Simon of the group. Joiner also plays trumpet and sings for the GCSU Jazz Band.



Judge Scales

Fish Scales is a Milledgeville native and is a founding member of the rap group Nappy Roots. Scales was polite and liked every performance. He wants to start a record label in Milledgeville.



Judge Flory

Dr. Jennifer Flory is the director of choral activities at GCSU. She offered the performers professional criticism and positive feedback. She performs as a mezzo-soprano soloist.

When to hold 'em or fold 'em

BY SALEM COOK
STAFF WRITER

The Campus Activity Board hosted a poker tournament on Feb. 3, letting students show off their card playing ability. Over 72 students lined up to try their luck to win \$300 worth of prizes. The main prize was a DVD player, along with three DVDs.

Eight tables allowed 72 students to participate in a Texas Hold'em tournament. Many students who came late were not able to join the game because there was not enough room. The line went out the door of the Student Activities Center and up the stairs near the main desk. Natalee Mayo, a CAB representative helped organize the event.

"We had a great turnout," Mayo said. "We had to turn around 10 people away. We only had so much room for so many tables."

All players started out with 100 betting chips with a GCSU insignia, as well as free food and drinks. The aim was to be the last player sitting at a table with all 7,200 chips in their possession. At around 6 p.m., Phillip Halcomb, a freshman business marketing major did just that.

Nearly four hours after sitting down to play his first game of poker, Halcomb was in possession of all the chips.

"It feels good," Halcomb said about winning. "When we got down to the final three competitors I was just glad that I was going to get a prize. Then I got a couple good hands and I won."

The top two runners-up

received video games. However, an assortment of CAB items was available for everyone. Dexter Carr, a freshman pre-mass communication major was eliminated in the last position before the final table.

"(The poker tournament) was nice," Carr said. "Even if you lose early, you still get a free coozy."

A \$200 Wal-Mart gift card was not the main prize for the first time at a poker tournament held by CAB. Carr would have rather won the Wal-Mart gift card because it is more versatile. Many of the poker participants held the same opinion.

CAB is working on a way to reincorporate the gift card rather than pre-picked prizes. CAB did not

"(CAB) just doesn't want a student to buy alcohol or cigarettes with money that they won from the school."

Regardless of the prize, playing poker is a hobby. Carr found the poker tournament as another reason to not go home for the weekend and to play poker for free.

Players stayed after they were eliminated from the event. Justin Burch, a senior history major, continued to play hands of Omaha, another style of poker, after he was eliminated.

"You know you are a poker addict when you've just been eliminated from a poker game and you still want to play," Burch said. "Especially when there aren't any chips."



RACHEL SLOAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Allison Gwaltney deals a hand of Texas Hold'em.

switch gift card with the prizes because it felt that the accolade would be greater.

"We can't give out gift cards anymore because we don't know what the winners are buying with their gift card," Mayo said.

Burch went down to the SAC with 12 of his friends who always play poker.

The next Texas Hold'em tournament will be held April 6 in the Magnolia Ballroom.

Half the world away comes to GCSU

BY KATIE HUSTON
SENIOR REPORTER

To understand culture is to experience it.

There is a world foreign to many Americans that stretches over 22 countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

The women like to wear perfume before leaving their homes. Family is the foundation of everyday life and young children are treasured. After welcoming their visitors with coffee, the traveling guests are asked to stop by again sometime.

These everyday customs are easy to relate to; they are familiar and exist in our America, our world. They tend to be overlooked when it is the Arab world being considered.

Fatma Al Maaman, GCSU's first Arabic professor, hosted "Discover Arab Culture" last Tuesday, Jan. 30, in the GCSU Museum Education Room.

"A lot of people don't know Arab culture. The things they know are about camels and war. We are better than this," Maaman said.

The presentation lasted less than an hour, but the dozens in attendance took mental notes on everything from do's and don'ts of everyday life, to the differences the Arabic calendar has.

"It was really informative. There were a lot of things I didn't know," senior Amy Sizemore said.

She came out to the event along with her roommate, Amira Abdulhafid who is also a senior.

"I'm half Arab; that's why I'm here," Abdulhafid said.

Around the museum room, heads nodded and feet tapped when Maaman showed clips of different Arab dances. One of the dances was from her home country of Oman.

She showed the different types of Henna ink designs. Many Americans are familiar with henna, but might not know it is one of the most important traditions Arab women have. They wear it not only on special occasions but whenever they deem it appropriate.

Highlighting the evening was a fashion show of traditional and non-traditional Arab wear. Countries represented in the show were Syria, Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Egypt.

While most of the models sported flowing, wrap-around type garments, the male model from Syria showed the diversity of the Arab culture with his striped golf shirt, jeans and tennis shoes.

Abdulhafid, whose father is from Saudi Arabia, enjoyed the fashion show the most.

"I've worn (the Arab clothing) and it's comfortable, but it's too long for me," Abdulafid said.

At the close of the presentation, guests were asked to sample Arabic food prepared by Maaman. The coffee recipe is her mother's.

"It was delicious," senior India Barfield said. "I'd definitely say it's better than Folgers. It's more

strong."

Before the desserts and fashion show, Maaman's presentation had a particularly moving part. She displayed lyrics to the "Arab Dream," an Arabic song that is sung during times of war.

The translated lyrics are simple: "Peace. Why do we fight? We are brothers! Why can't we be friends? I want peace. It is time for peace."

Maaman is at GCSU just for the year. Her time here has been spent creating an impact on campus by sharing her culture.


"I have been working (on the presentation) since December," Maaman said. "I'm glad everyone enjoyed it."



ANDREW BENESH /
SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER
An example of typical Arab dress.

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THE SPORTS GUY

BY WES BROWN



Anything but soft

Last week, I debated how GCSU is transitioning into a bat and glove school. The sports of baseball and softball are achieving everything needed to create a competitive and intense program: an accomplished track record, a talented team and a heated rivalry. This week I will talk about how the GCSU softball team satisfies all of the components listed above.

In the past couple of years the softball team has surfaced as one of the top programs in the southeast. GCSU had an impressive year in 2006 with a record of 45-13. The team won the NCAA Division II South Atlantic Regional Tournament and advanced to the NCAA II Softball Championships in Salem, Va., for the second time in the last four years. The Lady Bobcats continue their excellence by being named No. 1 in the 2007 Peach Belt Conference (PBC) Preseason poll.

The team returns 13 lettermen including PBC Player of the Year and All-American senior third baseman Keidra Baitey (.408, 9 HR, 44 RBI), Second Team All-Region senior center fielder Deidra Baitey (.358, 18 RBI), as well as sophomore pitcher Mandy Chandler (23-4, 1.84 ERA), who earned All-PBC and Second Team All-Region honors, and junior pitcher Libby Kidd (21-9, 1.80 ERA), who led the PBC in wins during the regular season.

In the process of becoming a powerhouse softball program in the PBC, it has established a feud between the Cougars of Columbus State University (CSU). Columbus State was the only team last year to finish higher than the GCSU in the PBC. After losing to CSU earlier in the 2006 PBC championship tournament, the Lady Bobcats would climb back to the top and advance to the championship game of the tournament to face the top-seeded lady cougars again.

Needing to beat their rivals twice, GCSU got off to a good start by winning the first game 7-1. But they would lose a heartbreaker as CSU's Jenny Baaske clubbed a solo home run in the bottom of the sixth to give the Lady Cougars a 4-3 victory.

No game that the GCSU softball team plays will be short of jaw-dropping excitement. GCSU starts the season by seeking revenge against No. 2 team in the PBC Preseason poll CSU, Feb. 14 at 1 p.m.

Students yearn for school mascot



Mascots (Left to Right) "Hairy Dog" of the University of Georgia, "Buzz" from Georgia Tech and "Pounce" from Georgia State University are some of the more popular college mascots in Georgia. The mascots serve as a symbol of the university's history and is believed to bring good luck.

BY BROOKE WILLIAMS
STAFF REPORTER

A group of super fans, known collectively as the Thundercats, have faithfully supported GCSU's basketball program this season at home and at away games. The rowdy group has also managed to rejuvenate school spirit and pride with their loud chants, body paint, posters and abundance of energy and enthusiasm. A few Thundercat members are now hoping to acquire the ultimate symbol of school spirit: a life-sized Bobcat mascot.

"Most students encourage the idea of a school mascot," said Jason Hendrix, a junior computer science major and member of the Thundercats group. "They think it would be a great additive to not just sporting events but also to the school as a whole."

A mascot can be a person, animal or object and is historically supposed to bring good luck for the organization it represents. High schools and universities have been using mascots since the late 1800's. Being a mascot for a university today requires a lot of skills and talents, and a mascot usually has a significant place in their school's history.

Stan Aldridge, Athletic Director at GCSU, supports the idea of getting a Bobcat mascot suit, but the only problem is the cost.

"I think there are a lot of people who are interested in being the mascot, who would do a good job," Aldridge said. "But, a good uniform is about \$ 2,400 to \$4,000, so that is the major



GCSU does not have a mascot, but the Thundercats are organizing a fundraiser to have a mascot by next year.

hurdle right now."

Aldridge has said that it would most likely be up to students or an organization to fund the attraction. Mascot suit advocates have brainstormed some ways they could raise the money they would need to purchase a suit.

"I have suggested collecting money and donations from students, faculty, staff, alumni

and community members," Hendrix said. "I have also suggested doing a road race around GCSU, but because of the Bobcat Rumble road race, that idea was shot down."

Figuring out how to raise the money needed to buy the Bobcat suit is going to be difficult for proponents of the idea. But the issue of who will wear the suit, once it is purchased, does not seem like it will be a problem.

"A Bobcat suit would get everyone so excited and pumped up," said Scott Murray, a junior environmental science major. "I would put it on in a heartbeat."

Aldridge has said if they did get a suit they would most likely hold auditions through the cheerleading program to determine who wears it. But there aren't many other restrictions for wearing a mascot suit.

Hendrix feels that he is more than qualified to play the part of the Bobcat mascot. He believes he is best known for having the most school spirit at GCSU. The eager fan was the mascot for his high school, the Northgate Vikings, which gave him plenty of experience.

"I love to go crazy and could care less what people think about me," Hendrix said. "Heck, I already wear the oh-so popular Spiderman suit to our games."

If a mascot suit were purchased, the life-sized Bobcat would not make its debut until the next school year but Thundercat members welcome all donations. They can be found at any home basketball game and at the group called Thundercats on www.facebook.com.

Lady Bobcats are one of best in region

BY PATTY MAGUIRE
STAFF WRITER

For the first time this season, the Lady Bobcats (16-5, 7-3) were ranked in the NCAA Women's Basketball Division II South Atlantic Regional Poll at No. 10 out of 10 ranked teams. They are ranked third in the Peach Belt Conference, trailing only Clayton State University and Columbus State University, teams the Lady Bobcats have yet to face.

While rankings change constantly, the Lady Bobcats continue to have consistent success and always find a place among top teams in the PBC. The team has reached the NCAA Tournament five times (1996, 1997, 2002, 2004, and 2006) and the "Sweet Sixteen" in 2004. In 1992 and 1996, the Lady Bobcats were PBC Champions and PBC Tournament Champions in 1996, 2002, 2004, 2006.

Amazingly, the Lady Bobcats refuse to let such a

history of success go to their heads.

"It's less important what it is right now, it changes so much," women's head coach John Carrick said. "I want to be ranked when it's over, when it matters most, and we want to keep winning games."

Carrick also comments on few changes in team dynamics, as the team's ultimate goal is to win, which will give them automatic ranking. The Lady Bobcats are excited for the tough week ahead, facing off against PBC rivals.

Starter Marquita Driskell, a junior community health major, also tries to stay realistic concerning the ever-changing world of rankings.

"It's there today, but it could be gone tomorrow. Numbers change so you have to keep working. We can't get too lax because other teams and players want to be there too," Driskell said. "It's important to take it every game at a time."

Lindsey Smith, a junior

mass communication major, loves being a Lady Bobcat.

"It feels good to be part of something so big, but we work hard the same every day. This region ranking doesn't mean we can't get beat. We have to keep going," Smith said. "But, our ultimate goal is for us to be conference champs. Then we'll feel our best."

The Lady Bobcats have the unique ability to take account of their accomplishments but stay level-headed to focus on what's next. They know the importance of continuing to work hard to get even further. This marks their dedication and skill which are reasons they have had such a good run.

They are currently undefeated at home. The Lady Bobcats cannot wait to see how they face off against PBC rival and top ranked Clayton State at home Saturday Feb. 10 for homecoming



WILL GODFREY / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER
Junior forward Marquita Driskell (32) battles to get a shot off in the paint against North Georgia Saturday as the Lady Bobcats remained unbeaten at home winning 81-76.

THE SHORT STOP



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STAT of the WEEK

.462

Senior outfielder Justin Mills' batting average at Tampa this weekend. Mills was named Peach Belt Conference Player of the Week for baseball.

Softball team tops CSU in PBC Preseason poll



BRITTANY THOMAS/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER
The GCSU softball scrimmages last week to prepare for the tournament at USC Aiken this weekend. Sophomore Kristy Thrasher perfects her swing while freshman Amy Zolun practices catching for Libby Kidd.

BY BRIAN FARRELL
STAFF WRITER

The GCSU Lady Bobcats softball team is off to another promising year with a preseason ranking of first in the Peach Belt Conference (PBC) and sixth in the nation. The team went 45-13 last year, won the NCAA Division II South Atlantic Regional Tournament and went to nationals for the second time since 2003. This year, the biggest challenge for the Lady Bobcats is replacing some of the key players they lost from last season. “We’re looking for some of the younger girls to step up this year,” said head coach Ginger Miller. “The trick is to try to replace people but maintain the same camaraderie.”

The coaching staff is expecting to see freshman left-fielder Allison Schwimer fill the shoes of Aundrea Baker, and also hopes to see sophomore infielders Chelsea Wilson and Elyse Smith step up to replace Diana Baruffa and Heather Jones. Despite their losses in personnel, the Lady Bobcats will be returning a total of 13 lettermen. The key players to watch will be senior third basemen All-American and PBC Player of the Year Keidra Baitey, her second team All-Region sister Baruffa in centerfield, and second team All-Region sophomore pitcher Mandy Chandler. The Lady Bobcats will also be returning junior pitcher Libby Kidd, who led the conference in wins last year with a record of 21 wins and only nine losses.

“We try to practice like



BRITTANY THOMAS/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER
Libby Kidd polishes her pitching technique last week to repeat as the PBC leader in wins.

we play in a game,” Kidd said. “Our whole focus this year is getting to nationals.” The players weren’t the only ones who received honors last year. Head coach Ginger Miller and assistant coaches Mandy Harris and Kristin Hughes were named the Speedline/National Fastpitch Coaches Association South Atlantic Region Coaching Staff of the Year last June. The staff sometimes hosts movie nights or takes the team bowling to encourage bonds between teammates. “These girls work really hard,” Miller said. “Every once in a while we try to break the routine and let loose a little bit...but not too much!” Although Miller was not in charge of the 2003 team, the players still believe the program is heading in the right direction.

“It’s been all uphill since I got here,” junior catcher Shelby Lindsey said. “We have a very personable coaching staff and we believe they truly are making us better.” The team faces a tough schedule which features six ranked teams, two of which are in the top 15 nationally. The first conference game will be at home against Columbus State Feb. 14 at 1 p.m. Columbus State defeated the Lady Bobcats in the PBC Championship last year and is currently ranked second in the PBC and 12th in the nation. The Bobcats have been working hard in preparation for Columbus State. “The only way to win is to outwork everyone else,” Chandler said. “I was hurt a lot last year, so this year we are going to stay healthy and come out stronger every game.”

COACHES CORNER

BY COREY DICKSTEIN



Chris Calciano

Chris Calciano has upped the expectations of GCSU baseball in each of his three seasons as head coach. Under his leadership, the Bobcats began the season ranked No. 2 in Division II by the Collegiate Baseball Magazine, following a season when they spent eight weeks ranked No. 1. “I’m very excited about this year,” Calciano said. Calciano began his head coaching career at Division II, West Chester University in Pennsylvania where he helped elevate the baseball program. “They were looking for, at the time, a young energetic guy that could help turn the program around,” Calciano said. “The pro-

gram had been something like 33-132-2 before I got there – you know, really bad. We developed it into a nationally ranked, conference champion.” In his third season at West Chester, Calciano propelled the Golden Rams to a conference championship; at GCSU it took him only two years. Calciano spent four seasons at West Chester but wanted to move to a program where he could compete for a national championship. “I felt at West Chester we could always be a very good team in the region, but I never felt we could truly (compete nationally), we weren’t funded enough to really win a national championship,” Calciano said. “So the opportunity

to come here came through, and, you know, that was three years ago I took this challenge and took a program that was a tradition-rich, quality program.” Since Calciano came to GCSU, the Bobcats have a sterling record of 87-34. They won their first Peach Belt Conference championship and hosted their first NCAA regional tournament. Calciano, named Coach of the Year in the PBC last season, looks to improve on the great season the team had last year. “We have more than enough talent back to be as competitive in our conference and nationally as last year,” said Calciano.

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